

DPHHS HAN Advisory

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DPHHS HAN Advisory 20060228A: Notice of Potential Varicella Exposure- Wrestling Meets held 2/25/06 in
Lewistown and Malta

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 15:38 MT (3:38 PM MST)

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Notice of Potential Varicella Exposure- Wrestling Meets held 2/25/06 in Lewistown and Malta

Two grade school-aged children participating in separate wrestling tournaments have been diagnosed with chickenpox. Unfortunately, both children competed during their infectious periods and may have exposed other susceptible individuals. As a precaution and to assist with recognition of other cases, we are encouraging the jurisdictions notified by this HAN advisory to contact the wrestling clubs involved and provide general information regarding the exposure.

The wrestling meets included the **AAU Regional in Malta** and a **Rugrat's Wrestling meet Lewistown**, both on 2/25. Both children were 8 years of age and wrestled in the 65-75 lb. weight class. While the individuals wrestling with these children will be of most concern, mixing with other wrestlers and contact with items potentially contaminated may be a transmission concern as well.

Clubs from a variety of cities participated and we are encouraging local health agencies to:

- Contact coaching staff and provide general information that can be passed along to parents, **or**

- Obtain lists and contact parents of the children involved.

- *For most exposed, no specific intervention is necessary. However, families and individuals can be encouraged to observe susceptible contacts (individuals without a history of vaccination or illness) for the signs of concern outlined in the DPHHS fact sheet during the next 2-3 weeks.* Individuals developing illness and individuals who are immunosuppressed, pregnant or newborn infants with non-immune mothers who have a documented exposure are encouraged to consult with their medical provider.

Exposure to varicella can be a concern for high-risk individuals. This situation is not an emergency, however, sharing of this information may lead to fewer exposures in the event of additional cases.

Wrestling Clubs Participating, by City:

Rugrat's Tournament- Lewistown (Contact DPHHS for specific contacts if needed.)

City, County

Belt, Cascade

Great Falls, Cascade

Fort Benton, Chouteau

Stanford, Judith Basin

Cut Bank, Glacier

Cascade, Cascade

AAU Regional- Malta (Contact DPHHS for specific contacts if needed.)

City, County

Malta, Phillips

Poplar, Roosevelt

Harlem, Blaine

Glasgow, Valley

Wolf Point, Roosevelt
Plentywood, Sheridan
Sidney, Richland
Havre, Hill
Chinook, Blaine
Scobey, Daniels
Glendive, Dawson

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The goal Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate of utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the Montana State HAN Coordinator Jim Aspevig at <<mailto:jaspevig@mt.gov>> or the Associate HAN Coordinator Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: provides general information regarding a situation or opportunity; does not typically require immediate action.

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